



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

November
2004

No Increase in October Unemployment in Northwest Wisconsin

The unemployment rate in October for Northwest Wisconsin was unchanged from September. The unemployment rate for Northwest Wisconsin was 4.1 percent in October the same as it was in September. However, the current rate is lower than the 4.5 percent rate of one year ago.

The rate did not change because there was only a minor reduction in the number of unemployed in October as the number

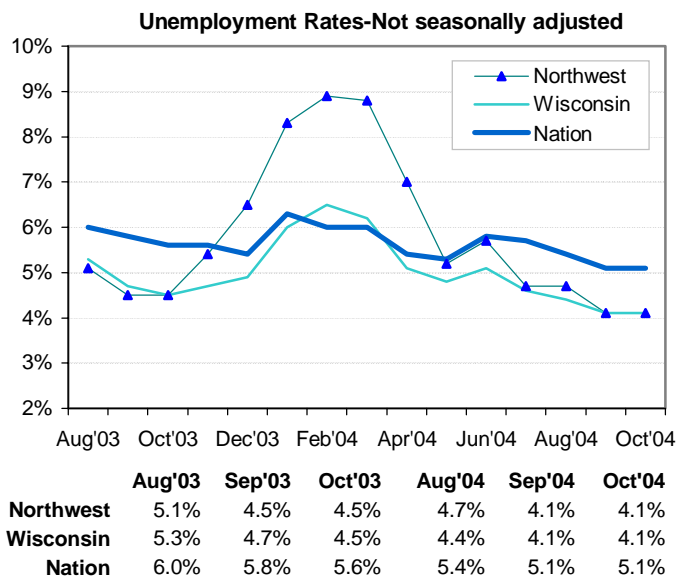
of residents with jobs increased by only 130. Out of a total labor force of 96,300 in October there were 92,340 residents employed and 3,970 unemployed.

The unemployment rate in Wisconsin was also unchanged during the month and remained at 4.1 percent, not seasonally adjusted. Also unchanged was the rate in the United States, which remained at 5.1 percent. Seasonally adjusted the Wisconsin rate was 5.0 percent

while the national rate was 5.5 percent in October.

Even though the unemployment rate for the northwest region was unchanged nine of the ten counties within the region did show changes. Four of the ten counties were among the 25 throughout the state that reported lower unemployment rates in October than in September. Those counties were Ashland, Douglas, Price and Washburn. In Ashland the October rate of 4.4 percent was down from the rate in September of 4.8 percent; in Douglas the rate declined from 4.3 to 4.0 percent; in Price it dropped from 3.6 to 3.5 percent; and in Washburn the unemployment rate declined from 4.3 to 4.2 percent. The number of unemployed declined in most of these counties and in all but Ashland County, the number of employed residents increased. Two industries were primary factors in the increase in jobs, government and manufacturing.

Government employment increased in nearly every county in October as local school districts continued to add workers to the payroll following the summer break. Many of these workers were



Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: October 2004

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03
Labor force	8,470	8,531	8,413	7,788	7,794	7,597	7,837	8,039	7,844	23,949	23,859	23,485	3,339	3,365	3,356
Employed	8,097	8,122	7,898	7,450	7,474	7,268	7,513	7,718	7,576	22,994	22,822	22,373	3,167	3,202	3,188
Unemployed	373	409	515	338	320	329	324	321	268	955	1,037	1,112	172	163	168
% unemployed	4.4	4.8	6.1	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.4	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.2	4.8	5.0

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03
Labor force	7,452	7,116	7,279	7,049	7,014	7,024	10,751	10,883	10,477	11,136	11,128	11,314	8,536	8,470	8,457
Employed	7,194	6,859	6,950	6,665	6,691	6,703	10,380	10,521	10,075	10,702	10,689	10,899	8,176	8,109	8,009
Unemployed	258	257	329	384	323	321	371	362	402	434	439	415	360	361	448
% unemployed	3.5	3.6	4.5	5.4	4.6	4.6	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.2	4.3	5.3

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - October 2004

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03
Total Nonfarm	8.9	8.9	8.8	4.2	4.2	4.0	5.0	5.1	5.0	18.4	18.3	18.2	2.3	2.3	2.4
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4
Trade	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.3	2.4	2.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	3.2	3.1	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.4

	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03	Oct '04	Sep '04	Oct '03
Total Nonfarm	6.9	6.6	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.8	7.3	7.4	7.1	9.3	9.3	9.4	6.3	6.3	6.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4

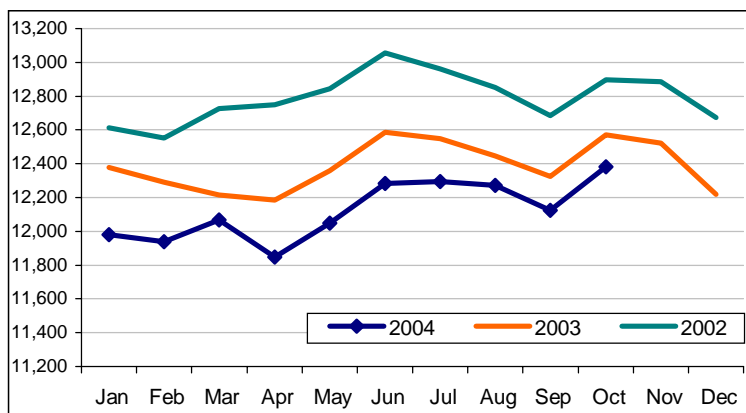
Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2003 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

working in September but because of delayed payrolls they were not counted until October. There was a net gain of 430 jobs in government during the month that brought the total number of government jobs in the region up to 15,300. Also included in government employment are the many jobs with Indian-owned operations, including casinos.

In several counties manufacturing employment increased. This is a seasonal increase associated with wreath production jobs. These jobs begin in mid-October, peak in early November, then subside by mid-December. There will be 700-800 wreath and garland assembly jobs in the region when they peak in November. In October there were 12,400 jobs with manufacturing employers in the ten-county region, an increase of 250 from September but still 190 less than one year ago.

Nearly every county in the region reported a reduction in the number of jobs

Manufacturing Jobs in Northwest



with leisure and hospitality employers. Even though the seasonal reduction in workers translated into the loss of nearly 500 jobs in this industry the ten-county area, employment with leisure and hospitality employers remains higher than one year ago. In October there were 8,200 jobs with leisure and hospitality employers.

Counties that experienced reductions in tourism-related jobs, Bayfield,

Burnett, Sawyer, and Iron, had unemployment rates that increased during the month. The unemployment rate in Bayfield County increased from 4.1 percent in September to 4.3 percent in October; in Burnett, the rate rose from 4.0 to 4.1 percent; in Sawyer, it increased from 3.3 to 3.5 percent; and, in Iron, the unemployment rate rose from 4.8 to 5.2 percent in October.



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